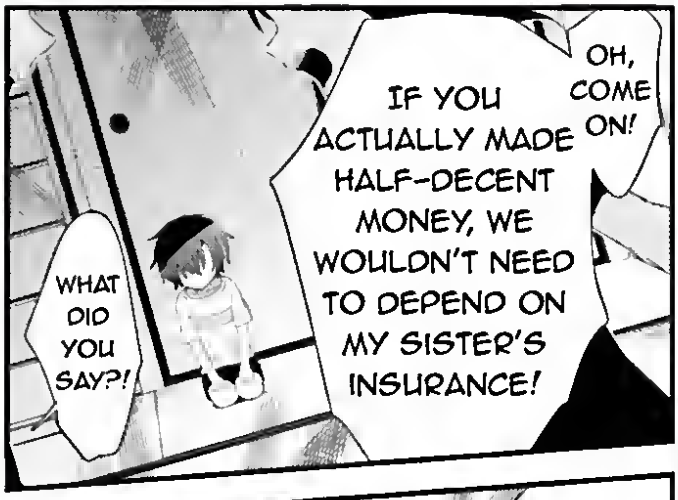
I LOST MY PARENTS WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
I WAS TAKEN IN BY SOME RELATIVES AND STARTED LIVING WITH THEM.

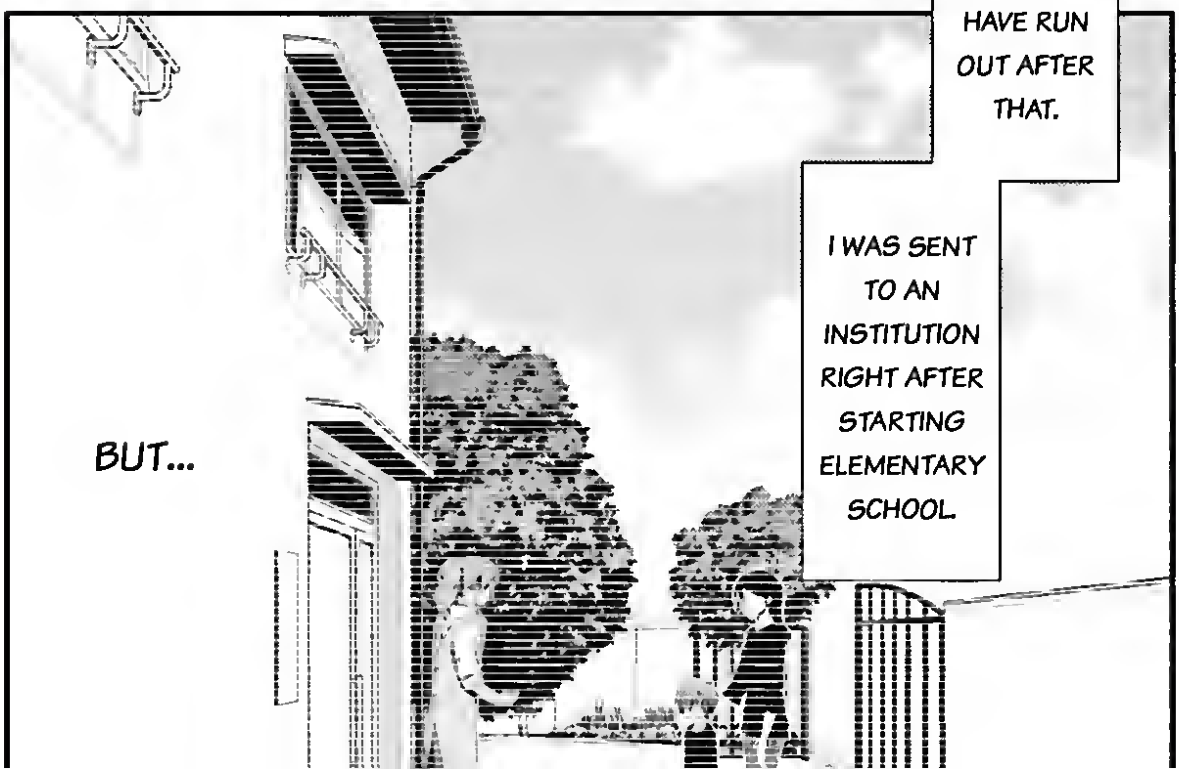

OH, COME ON!
IF YOU ACTUALLY MADE HALF-DECENT MONEY, WE WOULDN'T NEED TO DEPEND ON MY SISTER'S INSURANCE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT INSURANCE,
THERE'S NO WAY I'D KEEP LOOKING AFTER THAT GLOOMY KID!

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU! GO AWAY!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT MOM AND DAD ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING THESE DAYS.
ACUTE

I GUESS LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT MADE IT HARD FOR ME TO RELATE TO OTHER PEOPLE.

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIE?
I GUESS THE INSURANCE MONEY MUST HAVE RUN OUT AFTER THAT.


I WAS SENT TO AN INSTITUTION RIGHT AFTER STARTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
BUT...

THAT DAY...
MY WHOLE WORLD WAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.
I FELT NOTHING BUT DESPAIR THEN.
BUT MIKU AND LUKA GAVE ME A REASON TO HOPE AGAIN.
SO...

WOW!
THESE ARE SO NICE!
I DECIDED I WOULD ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF THE TWO OF THEM.
OH, IT FITS PERFECTLY!
I WONDER IF THIS WOULD MAKE ME LOOK MORE GROWN UP.
I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT.
NO, YOU DON'T NEED TO...
WHAA?!
I'LL TAKE THE ONE, PLEASE.
RIGHT AWAY!
SHE IS. I'LL TRY SENDING A MAIL.
LUKA'S KINDA LATE.
I'LL TREASURE IT ALWAYS!!
...TH...
THANK YOU!

ACUTE

ACT 2

[Kaito]

Music and Lyrics by KUROUSA-P, Manga by SHIORI ASAHINA,
Special thanks to MOKA ICHIYOU

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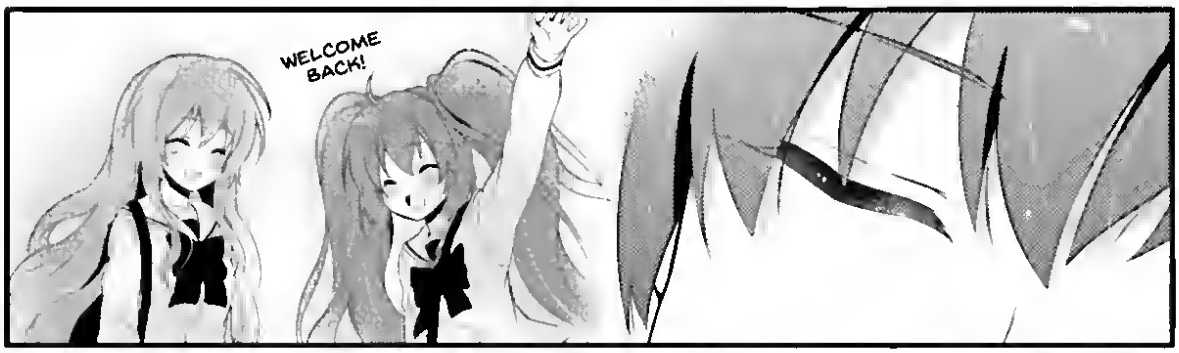
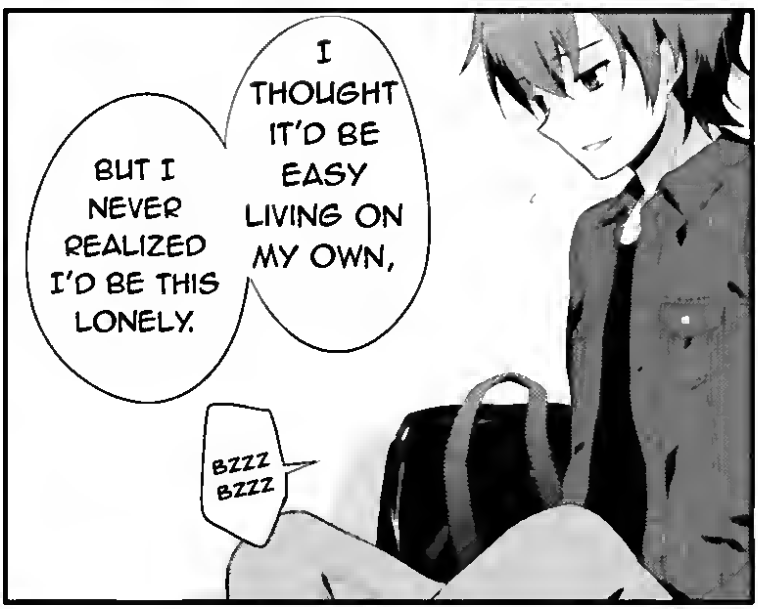
WHEW...
IT'S TOUGH WORKING MORE THAN ONE JOB AT A TIME...
どさっ


WELCOME BACK!

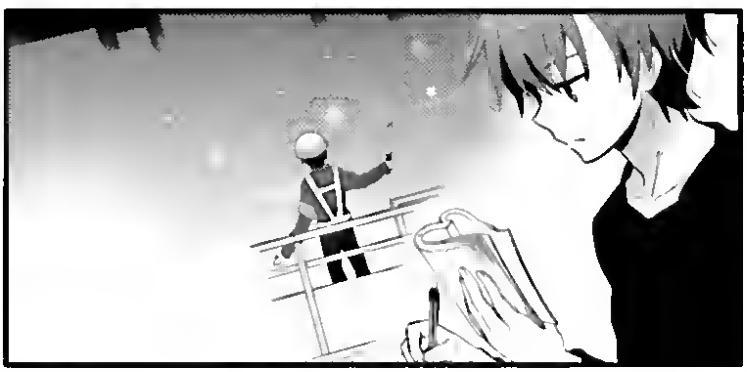
A MAIL?
TAP


I THOUGHT IT'D BE EASY LIVING ON MY OWN,
BUT I NEVER REALIZED I'D BE THIS LONELY.
BZZZ BZZZ

From: 未来
Sub: MIKU
本文:
GOOD EVENING! I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY WITH WORK AND SCHOOL. ARE YOU DOING ALRIGHT?
ANY TIME YOU'RE TIRED, YOU CAN COME OVER FOR DINNER!
MIKU...
THANKS, MIKU.

HOW ARE YOU, KAITO?
RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN LONGER GAPS BETWEEN YOUR MAILS, SO I'VE BEEN WORRIED. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT ANY TIME WHEN YOU'RE OFF OF WORK.
MIKU MISSES YOU, TOO. SHE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU.

KAITO!
カンカン



TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH, MIKU.
WE'RE HERE TO SEE YOU! WOW! I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE WE HELPED YOU MOVE!
HOW'VE YOU BEEN, KAITO?
ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT?

AHH
I'M FINE.
I'M EATING PLENTY. I'M JUST NOT USED TO A FEW THINGS YET.
KAI-TO...
...KAITO, HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT? YOU LOOK PALE, TOO...

MIKU, LUKA, WEL-COME.
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO OFFER, BUT MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.

REALLY? YOU LOOK SO THIN. YOU MUST BE WORKING TOO HARD!
THAT'S NO GOOD! YOU'VE GOT TO GET PLENTY OF FOOD AND SLEEP!
HERE!

...
HE'S LYING.

OK.
THANKS SO MUCH FOR DO-ING ALL THIS.
NO PROBLEM
I'M COM-ING IN!
MIKU! YOUR SHOES!

TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
ANYWAY, WE BROUGHT AS MUCH AS WE COULD CARRY, SO GO AHEAD AND EAT.

LOOKS LIKE MIKU HASN'T CHANGED A BIT
SOOORRRY

SEE YA, KAITO!

ONE YEAR LATER
THANKS, LUKA.
BUT ISN'T IT A PAIN TO DO THIS SO OFTEN?
I'M FINE, YOU KNOW. I DON'T WANT YOU TO OVERDO IT.
OH, WELCOME BACK.
I'M JUST ABOUT FINISHED.

IT'S NO TROU-BLE AT ALL.
BESIDES, I'VE BEEN GOING TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY SINCE SPRING, AND I LIVE CLOSE BY.
I WISH YOU'D LET ME DO MORE FOR YOU.
MIKU'S SO BUSY WITH HER CLUB THAT SHE CAN'T COME VISIT MUCH,
SO I'M MAKING THIS WITH LOVE FROM THE BOTH OF US.
LUKA...
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT THINGS COVERED HERE, SO GO AHEAD AND WASH UP!
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LET YOURSELF GET SICK.
DISHES

EAT UP! VEGETABLES ARE GOOD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW!
MM
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUT LATE, SO I'LL GO HOME NOW. DON'T FORGET TO EAT, OKAY?
LUKA
I MADE YOU YOUR FAVORITE CURRY!♪
WELCOME HOME!

SIGH...
Feb. 13th
WHY'D IT HAVE TO RAIN ON MY DAY OFF...?
RAIN...
I NEED SOME SOUND TO DROWN IT OUT.
I HATE THAT.
WHENEVER I'M ALONE I REMEMBER THAT DAY.

THE GIRL APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFERED SEVERAL STAB WOUNDS TO THE STOMACH...
EARLY IN THE MORNING ON THE 13TH, THE BODY OF A 7-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS FOUND IN A HOME IN XX CITY OF XX PRE-FECTURE.
HER MOTHER HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT.

ガタッ
KAITO'S HOME ALREADY...
AH
バタン
KAI-TO?
KAI-TO...
WHAT HAP-PENED, KAITO...?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
...

...
...THANK YOU, LUKA.

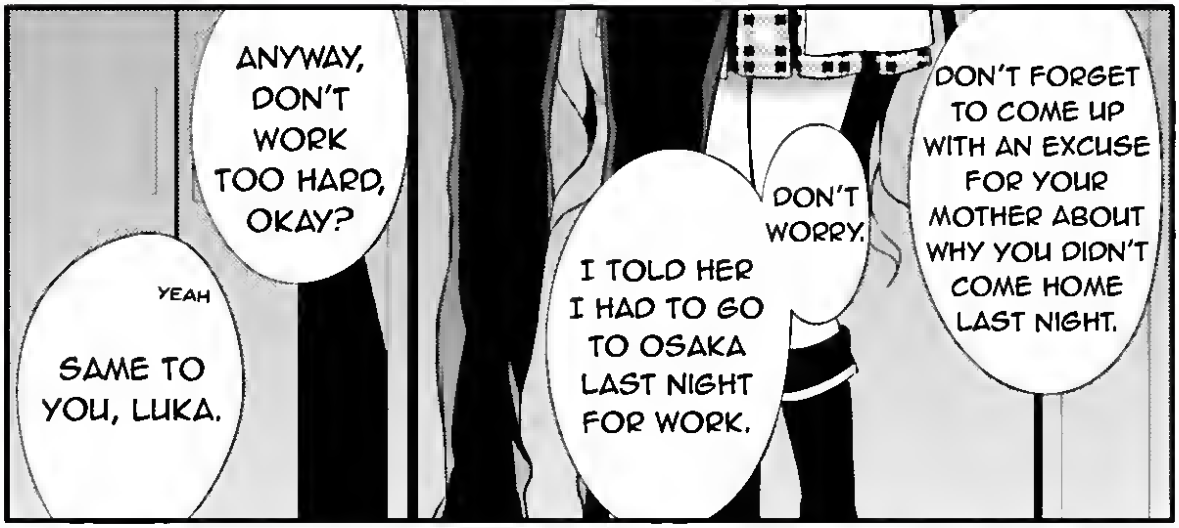
...SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ME LIKE THAT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLO-GIZE.
BUT REALLY, WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THAT BEFORE, KAITO...
...
...LL YOU.
EH?
I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THIS.
IF I DID...
AND YOU LEFT ME TOO...
WHA...

LUKA...
はぁ
はぁ
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD EVER LEAVE YOU!
THERE'S...
THERE'S NO ONE IN THE WORLD MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN YOU, KAITO!
SO DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS...
AND MIKU FEELS THE SAME...
WE'VE ALWAYS SAID WE'D BE TOGETHER FOREVER, RIGHT?!

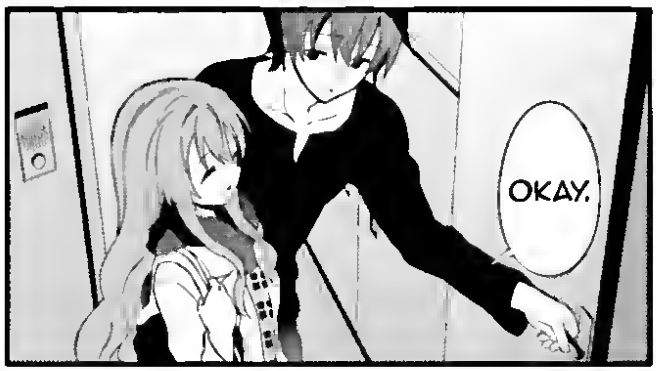
IF I DIDN'T HAVE YOU CLOSE BY, I'D...

LUKA WAS IN MY ARMS
BEFORE I KNEW IT.

LUKA HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME, ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME, AND I HAD NO REGRETS TAKING THINGS FURTHER.
I'M SURE LUKA FELT THE SAME.
BUT...
WELL, I SHOULD BE GOING.
THE ONLY THING I WORRIED ABOUT WAS MIKU.
THANKS.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU IS ALL.
AND I WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE, KAITO.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T NEED TO COME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE AGAIN AFTER WALKING TO SCHOOL WITH ME.


ANYWAY, DON'T WORK TOO HARD, OKAY?
YEAH
SAME TO YOU, LUKA.
DON'T WORRY.
I TOLD HER I HAD TO GO TO OSAKA LAST NIGHT FOR WORK.
DON'T FORGET TO COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE FOR YOUR MOTHER ABOUT WHY YOU DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.

LUKA
HUH?


OKAY.

ANYWAY, I'M GOING NOW.
OKAY.
SORRY. I COULDN'T HELP IT.
...OH, YOU.

着信
未来
HELLO?
SORRY FOR SHOWING UP SO SUDDENLY.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE OUT ALONE SO LATE AT NIGHT...
DON'T WORRY.
...MIKU.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME, YOU'D COME TO MY RESCUE, RIGHT, KAITO?
OF COURSE I WOULD.
IF YOU WERE IN TROUBLE I'D GET THERE AS FAST AS I COULD.
YEAH.
I KNOW. I KNOW THAT I'M IMPORTANT TO YOU.

BUT...
MIKU...?
...
UMM...
THERE'S SOME-THING...
I WANT TO ASK YOU TO YOUR FACE...
KAITO, WHO DO YOU LIKE BETTER,
ME OR LUKA?

IF WE WERE BOTH IN DANGER,
WHICH OF US WOULD YOU SAVE?
...THERE'S NO WAY
I COULD CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.
YOU'RE BOTH SO IMPORTANT TO ME.
I'D DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO SAVE BOTH OF YOU.
...LIAR.
YOU KNOW YOU COULDN'T DO THAT.
IF YOU SAVED ONE OF US, THE OTHER WOULD DIE.
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, YOU'D GO TO LUKA FIRST, WOULDN'T YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIKU?!
I'D NEVER JUST THROW YOU AWAY FOR LUKA...

BUT YOU DID CHOOSE HER!
I HEARD EVERY-THING
FROM LUKA.
HOW COULD THE TWO OF YOU HIDE THAT FROM ME?
YOU TOLD ME YOU CARED ABOUT ME!
MIKU

...
YOU DON'T...
WHY?!
WHY DID YOU JUST TOSS ME ASIDE?!
...
MIKU
PLEASE, JUST CALM DOWN.
YOU DON'T NEED ME NOW THAT YOU HAVE LUKA, RIGHT?!
EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING...
EVEN THOUGH LUKA PROMISED SHE'D NEVER TELL YOU HER FEELINGS...

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE!!
WHY?!
I CAN'T STAND IT!
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU...
I'VE ALWAYS...
MIKU
WHY...
...BUT...
IT'S TRUE THAT I LOVE BOTH OF YOU.
MIKU...
I'M SORRY.

I LOVE YOU AND LUKA...
I'M IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT MYSELF UNTIL IT HAPPENED...
I'M SO SORRY.
I THINK OF YOU AS MY SISTER, MIKU.
YOU'RE LIKE FAMILY TO ME.

SO IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO YOU...
I'D DO WHATEVER I COULD TO HELP YOU.
I'D NEVER JUST TOSS YOU ASIDE.
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS.
...WOULD YOU REALLY DO WHATEVER YOU COULD?
YEAH.
...I SEE.
IN THAT CASE...

I WANT YOU TO HOLD ME... THE SAME WAY YOU HELD LUKA.

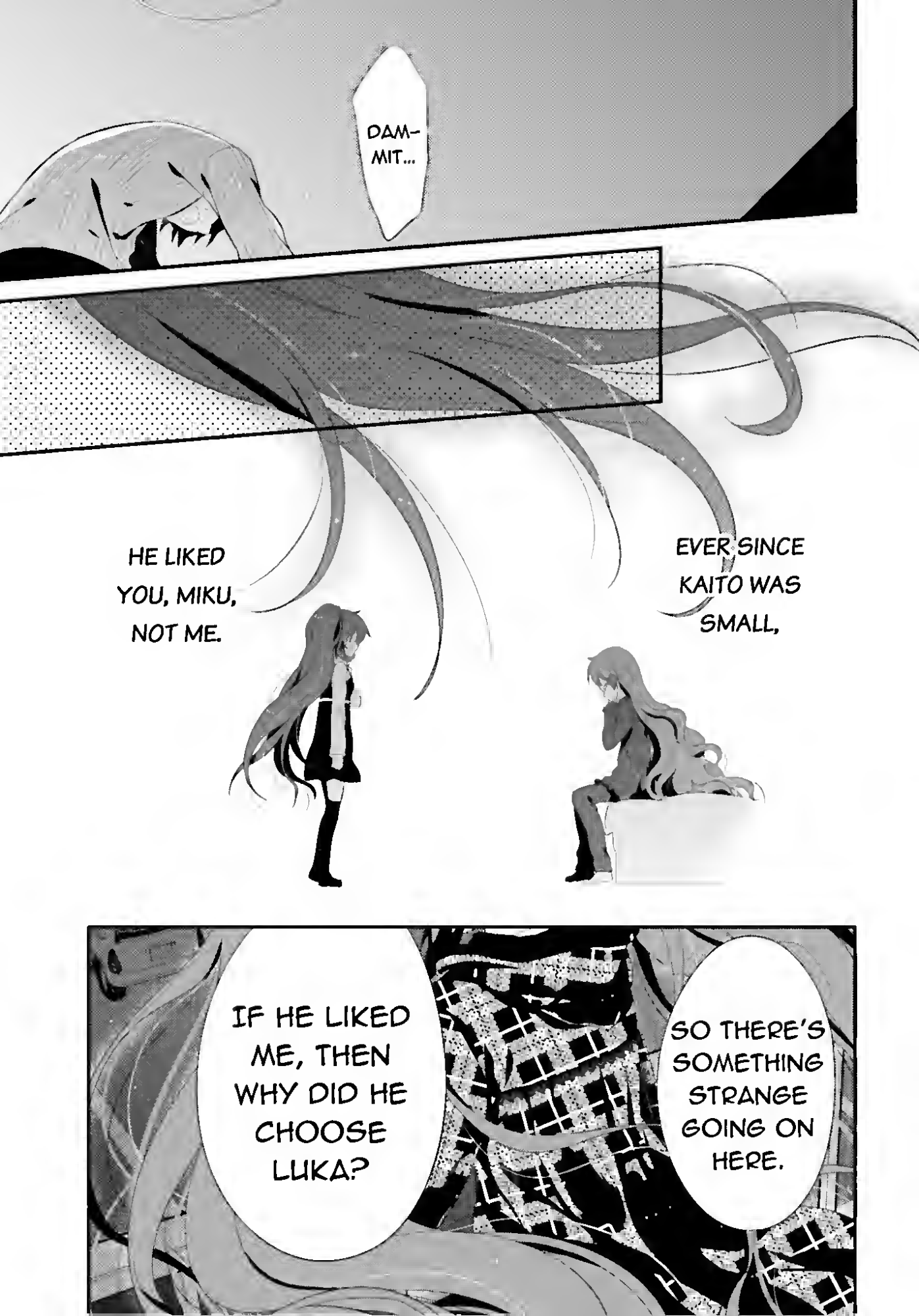
JUST ONCE, I WANT TO FEEL IT FOR MYSELF.
AND THEN...
I'LL FORGET THE WHOLE THING.
MIKU... THAT'S...
IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN DO, RIGHT?
IF YOU REFUSE
I'LL KILL BOTH LUKA AND MYSELF.
WHA...

DON'T BE A FOOL, MIKU!
THEN DO IT.
JUST ONCE...
OR ELSE...
...

...JUST ONCE, ALRIGHT?
AND THEN YOU'LL BE SATISFIED, MIKU?
YES.
I'LL HAVE THAT AS MY ONE SWEET MEMORY, AND THEN EVERYTHING CAN GO BACK TO NORMAL.

...I SEE.
I'M SO HAPPY.
BE GENTLE WITH ME, OKAY?

I MAY HAVE MADE A HORRIBLE MISTAKE.
...WAS THAT REALLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO...?
I LOVE LUKA.
BUT...
SO WHY...
IT'S NOT A LIE.
MIKU'S IMPOR-TANT TO ME TOO.


DAM-
MIT...
HE LIKED YOU, MIKU, NOT ME.
EVER SINCE KAITO WAS SMALL,
IF HE LIKED ME, THEN WHY DID HE CHOOSE LUKA?
SO THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON HERE.

COULD IT BE THAT LUKA...
BRAIN-WASHED HIM SOMEHOW?
HE HELD ME SO GENTLY, WAS SO CARING WITH ME...

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
HE REALLY LOVES ME.
BUT SHE MADE HIM CHOOSE HER.
THEN IT'S UP TO ME TO SHOW THEM THE TRUTH.

RIGHT?
KAITO
NO ONE KNEW WHAT LIED BEHIND THAT SMILE.
To Be Continued